

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph that starts at page 2, line 4 as follows:

In general, there are two basic methods to construct server and gateway clusters in a TCP/IP network. According to the first basic method, each server or gateway has a distinct IP address, and an external device redirects the requests or packets to different servers or gateways. The external device has a certain set of rules for controlling the redirection of data packets. For example, the external device can redirect data packets on the basis of current load on the cluster devices. In the example of figures 1 and 2, the external device can be the switch 20 connecting the LAN to the cluster. The main drawback of this solution is asymmetric routing: because routing in IP networks is usually based only on the destination IP address, outgoing and incoming packets can be routed to different gateways. This is a problem when the gateways also serve as firewalls, since firewalls typically do not accept any incoming messages, which are not a reply to a previous outgoing request. When the incoming packets are routed to a second gateway which is a different gateway than the first gateway which sent the original outgoing request, they will be discarded since the second gateway does not have any knowledge about the previous request.

Please amend the paragraph that starts at page 6, line 1 as follows:

Figure 4 illustrates as an example how the step 110 of obtaining information is performed according to an advantageous embodiment of the invention. According to this embodiment, the method further comprises at least steps, in which the switching unit receives 114 an IGMP group membership report, the switching unit checks 116, if said report is addressed to said IP

multicast group specific to the cluster, and if it is, the switching unit stores 118 into its memory the identifier of the port, through which said report arrived.